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LOS ANGELES

DeLorean

Federal prosecutors denied Wednesday that a former co-defendant in the John De Lorean cocaine case was an operative for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Attorneys for the automaker had asked earlier for government information about the possibility that Willaim Hetrick, who has pleaded guilty in the case and agreed to testify against De Lorean in his upcoming trial, worked for the CIA.

Included in the government's opposition to De Lorean's motion for the information was a statement from Stephen Wilson, Hetrick's attorney.

"In specific, Mr. Wilson denies that Hetrick was an employee of the CIA," the government said in a motion filed Wednesday.

But Howard Weitzman, attorney for De Lorean, said he was not satisfied with the government's denial.

"I don't accept their denial," Weitzman said. "I have been informed he worked for that agency. Their denial is not good enough."

De Lorean faces an October trial on charges he bankrolled a \$24 million cocaine deal in an effort to save his financially-troubled sports car firm.